



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Westwego man pleads guilty to charges of fraud pertaining to waste tire program

BATON ROUGE – On Monday, a Westwego man pled guilty to a felony count of filing a document containing a false certification to the department.

Andre Franklin, 55, a waste tire transporter from Westwego, submitted a waste tire manifest to DEQ that contained a false certification. Under Louisiana law, tire dealerships have the responsibility to register with the department and collect a fee for each tire that is replaced on a vehicle.

In May, investigators within the Criminal Investigation Division of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality arrested Franklin on a felony count of filing a document containing a false certification to the department.

The fee on the sale of a tire is collected by the retail tire dealership and remitted the department to be deposited into the Louisiana waste tire management fund. This fund is used to reimburse waste tire processors for converting the eligible waste tires into usable material that is approved by the department for a beneficial end-use market. The collection, transportation and processing of eligible waste tires is regulated utilizing a manifest system.

According to the information gathered throughout the investigation, Franklin allegedly collected over 700 ineligible waste tires from a separate site in April 2008, and submitted a false waste tire manifest to DEQ claiming that over 700 eligible waste tires were generated from his business in Westwego, Louisiana.

Criminal prosecution of waste tire fraud is essential to maintaining the integrity of the Louisiana waste tire program which sustains a level playing field for the honest private enterprise,” said DEQ Undersecretary Vince Sagnibene.

Filing false public records is a felony under Title 14 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes. The 24th Judicial District Court in Jefferson Parish ordered Franklin to complete 100 hours of community service and to pay a fine of \$300, plus additional court costs and fees. Franklin also received a one year suspended sentence and a year of active probation.

The case was prosecuted by District Attorney Paul Connick and Assistant District Attorney Shannon Swaim of the Jefferson Parish District Attorney’s Office.